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A HOPEFUL VIEW OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

A

Thanksgiving Sermon

PREACHED AT

THE SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR,

Staten Island, Sept. 11, 1864,

BY

REV. CHARLES J. JONES,

CHAPLAIN.

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REV. CHAS. J. JONES,—

STATEN ISLAND, *September 26, 1864.*

Dear Sir,—The undersigned having heard, with much pleasure, and we trust also with profit, your Thanksgiving Sermon of Sunday, Sept. 11th, and believing that it would, if extensively read, be productive of good, respectfully request that you will provide us with a copy for publication.

We are, very respectfully, yours,

AUGUSTUS DE PEYSTER,
S. V. R. BOGERT,
JAMES PORTER,
WILLIAM SNEDEKER,
REED BENEDICT,
EDWARD C. BADEAU,
SAMUEL RAYNOR,
JAMES HILLYER.

SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK,
September 27, 1864.

Messrs. DE PEYSTER, BOGERT, PORTER, and others,

Gentlemen,—The Sermon to which you listened, and a copy of which you request for publication, was prepared simply and solely for the encouragement of my own immediate congregation, and without the remotest idea of its ever being given to the Press. But if you think that it will do good to publish it, I yield to your judgment, and cheerfully accede to your wishes. If but one timid and fearful soul shall be comforted and encouraged thereby, then my object is attained, and my labor will not have been "in vain in the Lord."

Very respectfully yours,

CHAS. J. JONES.

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S E R M O N .

"The Lord hath done great things for us; *whereof* we are glad."—PSALM cxxvi. 3.

THE proclamation of the President of the United States, just issued, calling for a day of National Thanksgiving for recent victories at Mobile and Atlanta, must meet with the sincere approbation of every true lover of his country. It strikes a chord in the national heart, the vibrations of which will be felt from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Penobscot to the Rio Grande. Every patriot heart will glow with new fires of devotion to our fatherland. Every pulse will thrill with new emotions, as the tidings of our victories and the call for thanksgivings are borne on the lightning's wing throughout the length and breadth of our land.

There are always, in every community, some timid, fearful, doubting souls, who are found sitting in the shadow of events, who seldom bask in the grateful sunshine of hope, and who, consequently, are depressed by delays and discouraged by anticipated reverses. But even these dark-visioned and desponding ones will not fail to come forth on an occasion like this, to enjoy the brilliancy of these passing events and to exult in these newly excited hopes.

In the mixed company before me to-day, there are two classes, viz.: Those who are radiant with hope and those who are still in doubt whether our joy may not be premature; whether reverses may not yet come and compel us to forego the realization of the pleasure with which we have anticipated the final and the rapidly approaching success to our arms, which shall bring the rebels to their knees at the feet of the loyal defenders of our blood-bought possessions. To such persons all joy seems out of place if it be the result only of successes that are not ulti-

mate or final. It may not be amiss, therefore, to glance at a few of the features of our present struggle, which will serve to corroborate and confirm the opinion of those who are hopeful and to comfort those who are timid and fearful as to the final result of this armed and treasonable effort to overthrow the benign institutions of this Government.

It may be suggested that my classification of opinions is not complete, not logical, does not present all the elements in the strife, and that there are some who are not included in either of the classes referred to; that there are in this land, and in the North too, those who are not only not radiant with hope of a favorable termination of our armed effort to restore peace, and who yet are not of those who are timidly, though fearfully, waiting for the same blessed result. There are those who neither hope for, nor expect, nor desire any termination to the strife that will not bring disaster to our arms and desolation to our homes, as well as a return of millions of the oppressed—because their skin is of a duskier hue than their own—to hopeless bondage. I admit that we have some, even in the North, who would gloat over the ruin of the country they cannot rule, who are base enough to surrender all we have gained at so fearful a sacrifice of blood and treasure, and to kiss the very feet of the traitorous crew who have brought our ship of state into these troubled waters. I ought also to state, in justice to all, that the good and the true of both the great political parties do not countenance these traitors, these Catalines and Arnolds in disguise.

But I will not so far insult this audience as to suppose that one such character is listening to me to-day. I will therefore occupy the time allotted to this service in presenting to you, as cause for thanksgiving to God, who is the Governor among the nations, some of the “great things” he has “done for us,” and “whereof we are glad.”

The line of thought I propose to follow is set forth in the words of the text, which contains—

I. THE FACT—"THE LORD (HEB. JEHOVAH) HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US," and

II. THE EXPRESSION OF JOY WHICH IT SUGGESTS--
"WE ARE GLAD."

I. THE FACT—"The Lord hath done great things for us:"

Among the "great things" that God has "done for us," I mention first:

(1.) The spirit of loyalty and patriotism with which he has animated our people, the basis of which is an underlying trust in the God of battles, and a consciousness that our cause is right.

The first shot fired at Fort Sumter was intended to "fire the Southern heart," and it accomplished its purpose. But it did more than the conspirators wished or intended—their "vaulting ambition overleaped itself;" it fired also the Northern heart. It kindled the fires of a holy patriotism. It fanned into "a most vehement flame" the embers of a pure loyalty, which the South conceived to be extinct, because long covered up or concealed by the engrossing cares of commercial life. The South took the torch of a partizan zeal to light her co-conspirators to their work of slaughter and death. But little did they think that they were lighting at the same time beacon-fires to rally the free sons of the North to the protection of their sacred rights, and to the conflict in which the liberties of the laboring classes, the so-called "mudsills" of the North, were to be secured, and the fetters of the slave to be broken as a necessary consequence. Little did they think that they were

"But teaching
Bloody instructions, which being taught, return
To plague the inventor."

And that "even-handed justice" would

"Commend the ingredients of their poisoned chalice
To their own lips."

The North—the nation, was unprepared for war.

And was guileless of any cause to produce it. They therefore looked on with incredulity, while the chivalry of South Carolina were planting their batteries against the starving garrison of Sumter. We did not give the traitors credit for the madness that possessed them. Nor did they give the North credit for any aspirations that were not limited by the periphery of the "almighty dollar." Both parties were therefore deceived in their estimate of each other. But the slumber of false security on our part once broken, the North once awake, and the South found, like the student in the German drama, that they had raised a devil that all their black incantations could not lay; that they had kindled an enthusiasm that all the waters of opposition, that the red torrent of war, could never extinguish, as they already know to their cost. It is now clear that all their calculations have failed. The nation has displayed a resistless energy which has proved too much for Southern treachery and Southern valor on the one hand, and for British "neutrality" on the other. Americans will hereafter speak of the neutrality of Great Britain as the Romans were wont to speak of Punic faith.

It was indeed a "great thing for us," that the tocsin of war was not smothered or hushed, by the busy hum of the mart, the manufactory, and the mill. The alacrity, the spontaneity, with which our people have responded to the call of the Executive for men and for money, has scarcely been equaled in any country on the globe; and that, for the very reason, that no nation on earth has ever possessed such resources in the hands of the people, while they had such precious, such priceless interests at stake. No nation ever battled for so noble, so free, so glorious an inheritance. No nation ever possessed—since the Jews spurned the Theocracy and demanded for themselves a king—such a foundation for national greatness and national usefulness, such adaptedness to the mighty work before it, or such institutions at which to cultivate its native powers. Rarely have such mighty in-

terests been at stake, as those for which we are now contending; and hence, the earnest, the enthusiastic, the burning patriotism which animates this great people. These are not idle boasts. The record is before us. Calls for seventy-five thousand, forty-two thousand, three hundred thousand, three hundred thousand, ninety thousand, five hundred thousand, three hundred thousand, and five hundred thousand men, have followed each other in succession, until over two millions have been called to the field; and these calls have been responded to with cheerfulness. At one time (July 10, 1861), Congress gave the President authority to call out five hundred thousand men, and voted \$500,000,000 for the expense of the war; and in a few days afterward (on the 16th of the same month), authorized the President to call out five hundred thousand more men. But the liberality of Congress in voting supplies, has been emulated by the munificence of States, counties, municipalities, and private individuals. In one day, May 7, 1861, the voluntary and patriotic contributions of the people of the North, for the purpose of carrying on the war, amounted to \$23,250,000. The Sanitary Commission, the Christian Commission, the Supervisors of Recruiting and Enlistments have all drawn upon the loyal people of the North, to the value of hundreds of millions of dollars;* and those drafts have all been honored *at sight*. And what means all this? Has this liberality, this self-denying patriotism no signification? It has. It means that this people know their rights—know the value of their privileges, and “knowing, dare maintain them.” That they know the priceless value of their liberties, and of their institutions, and that they are willing to pay for them. It means that they know the glory that attaches to the ideas of which our starry flag is the symbol. They mean that “*old glory*” shall be flung to the breeze of heaven, and

* The ascertained amount of such donations, up to February 1, 1864, is \$211,786,616.

shall yet float proudly over every foot of soil that has ever owed it allegiance. Yes, we too, mean it! You and I mean it, and share in the enthusiastic encomiums on our flag, with the author of those beautiful lines:

“God bless our star-gemmed banner, shake its folds
out to the breeze,
From church, from fort, from housetop, o’er the city,
on the seas;
The die is cast, the storm at last has broken in its
might;
Unfurl the starry banner, and may God defend the
right.

“Would to God it waved above us, with a foreign foe
to quell,
Not o’er brother faced to brother, urging steel, and
shot, and shell.
But no more the choice is left us, for our friendly
hand they spurn;
We can only meet as foeman—sad, but resolute and
stern.

“Father—dash aside the tear-drop, let thy proud boy
go his way;
Mother—twine thine arms about him, and bless thy
son this day.
Sister—weep, but yet look proudly, ’tis a time to do
or die;
Maiden—clasp thy lover tenderly, as he whispers thee
good-by!

“Onward, onward to the battle! who can doubt which
side shall win?
Right and might both guide our squadrons, and the
steadfast hearts within:
Shall the men who never quailed before, now falter
in the field;
Or the men who fought at Bunker Hill be ever made
to yield?

“ Then bless our banner, God of Hosts ! watch o’er
each starry fold ;
’Tis Freedom’s standard, tried and proved on many
a field of old ;
And Thou, who long hast blessed us, now bless us
yet again ;
And crown our cause with victory, and keep our flag
from stain !
H. E. T.”

(2.) God has done “ GREAT THINGS FOR US ” also, IN
THE SUCCESSES HE HAS VOUCHSAFED TO OUR ARMS.

There are those (gloomy souls !) who ever see the dark side only, who are always bemoaning the condition of things, on the ground of what they call, our want of success. They exclaim against the imbecility of the President, and the inefficiency of our generals. They say, “ we have been fighting for four years, and now, are no nearer the end than when we begun. To such persons, every campaign is a failure that does not work out all its legitimate and ultimate results, just at the precise moment when they are expecting a victory to our arms. Hence, even the gains on our part have been considered as losses, even up to the very moment when the plans of our generals and commanders have culminated in victory. Now, what is the truth in this matter ? If we are honest we can afford to look the facts in the face. What then are the facts ? What territory was in our possession immediately after the rebellion was inaugurated ? And what is in our possession now ? At the beginning of this struggle Kentucky declared herself neutral, Missouri and Maryland were doubtful, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Florida threw off their allegiance (in many cases, the States were declared in secession, in opposition to the will of the people, I will admit). All these States were then under the control of armed traitors, who robbed the Government they had sworn to support, of money and arms for the carrying out of their

nefarious purposes. But what is the condition of things now? Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland (as States), are loyal; important parts of Arkansas, of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Texas, Georgia, North and South Carolina, a large part of Virginia, and all of Tennessee, are already in our hands. The Mississippi is opened from the Falls of St. Anthony to the Gulf of Mexico. The whole Southern coast, for thousands of miles, is under a rigid blockade. Charleston and Savannah are virtually sealed up; while New Orleans and Mobile Bay, with its forts and defenses, are occupied by our forces. In the words of another: "We have not failed; on the contrary, we have fought bravely, and conquered splendidly; we can point to such trophies as few wars can equal, and none surpass. Besides defending with unusual vigilance and completeness, two thousand miles of frontier; we have taken from the enemy's of the Union, by valor and generalship, thirty complete and thoroughly furnished fortresses; we have captured over two thousand cannon; we have reconquered, and now hold nearly four thousand miles of navigable river courses; we have taken ten of the enemy's principal cities, three of them capitals of states; in thirty days last summer, we captured sixty thousand prisoners; we have penetrated more than three hundred miles into the territory claimed by the enemy; we have cut that territory into strips, leaving his armies without effectual communication with each other; the main operations and interests of the war, which were lately concentrated about Baltimore, Paducah, and St. Louis, have been transferred, by our steady and constant advance, to the narrow limits of the seaboard slave States; we hold every harbor but one, of a coast six thousand miles long. And whatever we have taken we hold; we have never turned back or given up that which we once fairly possessed. And yet, in the face of all these brilliant successes and stupendous victories, it is alleged that we have accomplished nothing."

It is but a short time ago that the Confederate papers boasted that "Hood was as safe at Atlanta as Lee at Richmond," and yet Hood has been driven out of the gate city, and Atlanta, in the words of the gallant Sherman, "is ours and fairly won." Nor must we forget the sacrifices and the noble deeds of the glorious Army of the Potomac. Under our "Unconditional Surrender Grant," it has fought its way from the fords of the Rapidan to the banks of the Appomattox, and already it has its "hands on the throat of the rebellion and its knees upon the neck of the prostrate form of treason." It is too late in the day now to talk of failure. God has done great things for us. But "*there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.*" This good work must go on therefore. We have no alternative but base submission. "It is the duty, the *solemn* duty, THE RELIGIOUS DUTY of the American people to crush out this rebellion. This duty we owe to ourselves; to the whole continent; to civilization and humanity; to the world and the God who made it. He has pronounced the sentence of its damnation and calls us to the painful duty of its execution. Not to wage war upon the South, not to conquer the South, has He given us an order. Not at all. But he has put into our hands for execution, with the sign-manual of the Great King affixed thereto, the death warrant of treason and rebellion. And *woe* to this nation, woe be to its Government, if they bear in vain the sword which God has put into their hands for the punishment of evil doers, and the praise of them that do well. Ours is a conflict solely on the defensive. And the moment the weapons of rebellion are cast down, the conflict is ended. Justice, on her dread tribunal, will have a few questions of felony to decide, but the muffled drum that follows treason to the grave, will die away in the busy hum of a united nation's peaceful pursuits."*

We have already reached the beginning of the end. Let us be true to ourselves; true to our brave soldiers

* Extract from a sermon by Rev. George Junkin, D. D.

and sailors now engaged in the strife; true to our country and true to our God, before whom we have covenanted to be loyal, and the issue cannot long be delayed.

This, then, is a time for rejoicing, a time to express our joy in thanksgiving to God. Yet there are some who do not joy at the prospect; who have no thanks to give for their nation's successes over the forces of treason. Let us leave such to their own gloomy forebodings, and their own unnatural fears; but let us remember that Jehovah has done great things for us, and it is our duty, as it is our privilege, to be glad.

(3.) The honor God has put upon us in making us the instruments in his hands of transmitting to our posterity a land freed from the withering curse of human bondage, is another "great thing" that God has done for us.

This, you will admit, is no inconsiderable boon. All who have kept their eyes and their ears open of late years, know that slavery has been the cause of all our political troubles. For this, compromises were made, or submitted to, by the North, and violated by the South. For this the Fugitive Slave Law—that monster of modern legislation—was enacted, and Northern free men were made the slave-catchers of the South. For this the Democratic Convention was divided at Charleston, S. C., in 1860, and for this the leading spirits of that Convention rushed into rebellion; and for the establishing of a confederacy on the corner-stone of human bondage, has this war been inaugurated and rivers of blood been shed. Will it not be a "great thing for us," then, if God shall permit us to transmit this good land to our posterity freed from this exciting course of strife? It is a "great thing," too, that God is using us for the purpose of securing true liberty and the rights of man to all future generations in all the earth. The struggle now going on in this land will be decided here—will never need be repeated. It is a struggle for the right of free labor. The distinction of color is not an essential element.

The question, the vital question, is whether capital shall own labor, or whether the laborer, black or white, shall own himself and have a right to the labor of his own hands. The masses of the Old World seem to understand this. The workingmen of the manufacturing districts in England seem to be conscious of this. The poor and down-trodden of Ireland know this; the laboring population of Germany know this; and hence the immense immigration of nearly a thousand a day that has been going on—an immigration unparalleled in the history of the world, if we consider that they who come leave a land of peace behind them to come to a land of strife. They rush into the very jaws of this rebellion, which they have sagacity enough to see, despite the protestations of their own aristocratic classes, will issue in blessings to the poor man, to the laborer of every land. "We are entrusted with the dearest interests of humanity, with the solution of the grandest problem that ever inspired the hopes or engaged the attention of man. It is the problem of his capacity for self-government. And if we fail, which we shall do most signally, if we do not suppress this rebellion, man's emancipation from tyranny and oppression, and human liberty and self-government are failures."*

Another "great thing" also, in my estimation, God is doing for us. He is establishing by us the fact, against despots and tyrants everywhere, that the people can govern themselves. "He is here testing the practicability of entrusting to the people the supreme ruling authority. The experiment is in progression under the most favorable circumstances. If it fail, it will probably be the last, and man must fall back upon despotisms. God will give us a king, as of old, to punish us. But let us have faith; this trial will probably be the last. Out of it the Republic will emerge as gold tried in the fire. The eagle shall yet

* Extract of a letter from Col. Jaquess to Gen. Garfield, May 19, 1863.

take a loftier flight; the stripes shall yet flout the pale blue sky; and the stars shall shine brighter and brighter until they merge in the splendors of millennial glory, when the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings."*

We are to prove that a government of the people can subdue its enemies within as well as without; that it can cope with rebellion and punish treason; that it can create immense armies and invincible navies, for offense or defense, quite as readily as those nations which are governed by what they call "the Divine right of kings;" that a republican form of government is as well adapted to all the exigencies of national existence and national culture, as is a despotism, an empire, or even a limited and constitutional monarchy. Is not this fact patent to-day? Have we not improvised a navy, as powerful, as well adapted to all practical purposes to which war ships are applied, as any of the navies of the Old World? Let the passage of the Mississippi and Mobile forts give the answer. In those terrific conflicts, our iron-clads and our wooden ships, manned with iron-hearted and lion-hearted men, proved themselves superior to scientifically constructed fortifications on the shore and the rebel iron-clads on the sea. Let them, I say, give the answer. Again, at the beginning of our war, we had about forty men of war in active service, employing less than seven thousand men. England had two hundred and fourteen, and France about one hundred and sixteen. Lord Paget stated in the British Parliament, in 1862, that the Admiralty proposed to keep two hundred vessels of the Royal Navy on active service, of which about one hundred would be cruising abroad. To-day we have in squadrons a navy of three hundred and eighty-two vessels actively cruising, or one hundred and eighty more than in the navy of Great Britain. Our whole navy consists† of 588 ves-

* Sermon of Rev. George Junkin, D. D.

† The Report of the Secretary of the Navy up to Novem-

sels (of which 75 are iron-clad), carrying over 50,000 men, 4,443 guns, and measuring 467,967 tons. The whole number of vessels of-war afloat in the navy of Great Britain is 522, and 20 building, making a total of 542, 46 less in number than the navy of the United States. Here then is a navy, as large as the entire navy of Great Britain, created within three years by the energy and untiring devotion of a man, who by some has been sneeringly called "Mrs. Welles." These facts are his noblest eulogy. As an evidence of the efficiency of our navy, showing that it is no holiday fleet, let it be remembered that, in addition to their splendid achievements at Hatteras, Port Royal, Roanoke, Newbern, Fort Henry, Fort Donnelson, Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, Port Hudson and New Orleans, Uncle Abraham's "web feet" have recently taken Mobile Bay and its defenses, and the entire Confederate Navy, with the famous iron-clad ram Tennessee. They have also sunk the notorious Alabama off Cherbourg in a fair fight, and would have taken the traitor Semmes if his English allies had not covered him with a tarpaulin and stolen him away. They have also taken the pirate Georgia, and have taken or destroyed, either while running the blockade or in actual war, within the space of two years and five months (from May, 1861, to October 31, 1863), 25 ships, 19 brigs, 46 steamers, 29 barques, 431 schooners, 98 sloops, 3 yachts, 3 pilot boats, 5 rams, 2 iron-clads, and 116 launches, making a grand total of 776 vessels captured by our navy, and yet the Secretary is accused of being asleep. The question may arise, What would he have done had he been awake?

ber 30, 1863, gives the following exhibit of our naval force, including vessels now in the process of construction: Iron-clad steamers, coast service, 46; iron-clad steamers, inland, 29; side-wheel steamers, 203; screw steamers, 198; sailing vessels, 112; total, 588. The increase of the navy for 1864 would swell this number by at least about 150 vessels. The increase of 1863 was 161 vessels, exclusive of all that we lost.

While we give all honor to Farragut and Foote, to Dahlgren and Dupont, and the brave tars under them, let us not forget the scientific skill and practical ability of our noble Erricson; nor the energy, the zeal, the organization, and the self-denying persistency in the good work of the head of the Navy Department, by which such victories were made possible. Let us give the meed of praise to our naval heroes and to our iron-hearted tars; but let us also remember to do honor to the patriotism and the indefatigable exertion of Secretary Welles, a man whom posterity will delight to honor, and whose praises will be sung by thousands when all his detractors are dead and their very names forgotten. Are not all these "*great things*" which "the Lord has done for us?" And do we not well to "*be glad?*"

(4.) Another "GREAT THING" that the Lord has done for this nation, is the providing her with such IMMENSE RESOURCES as adapt her to the struggle in which she is engaged.

A great outcry has been raised by the enemies of the Government concerning our enormous war debt, as if it were the great leak through the agency of which the ship of state must go down in this terrible financial storm. This is a vital point. Money is the sinew of war. Let us look at what we owe, and what we have to pay it with. It is the duty of an honest nation, as it is of an honest merchant, to see that its liabilities do not outrun its assets; that it does not go into debt beyond its ability to pay. And here, too, as in all things else, it will be found that this nation is equal to her enormous task. Our ability in this matter may be shown by a few figures, which, as the proverb has it, "cannot lie," and will, perhaps, be more striking if presented in the way of contrast.

In 1816 the debt of Great Britain was \$4,250,000,000, equal to forty per cent. of the property on which she relied to pay the debt. In forty-two years—say from 1816 to 1858—by the increase of her national wealth, it was reduced to thirteen per cent., while the debt really was but \$300,000,000 less than in 1816.

In 1816 the debt of the United States was equal to seven per cent. of her entire capital. But such was the increase of our national wealth, that in 1860 that debt amounted to less than nine-tenths of one per cent. In other words, the whole debt of the United States in 1816, could have been paid in 1860 with nine mills on the dollar of our actual wealth.

If our war should close on us with a debt of \$3,000,000,000 (and it would require two and a half years more of war, at the current rate of expense, to bring it to that figure), the interest of that sum at five per cent., which is beyond the present average,* would be \$150,000,000, and if our wealth, or national resources, increase in the future as they have done in the ten years from 1850 to 1860, viz., at one hundred and thirty per cent. (the true figures are 129.7 per cent.), to say nothing of the increase for the year 1863, which was thirty per cent., amounting to \$3,719,000,000, then our ability to pay, i. e., our assets, or national capital, will be represented, in round numbers, in such figures as these: In 1864, \$20,000,000,000 (the actual sum is \$21,300,000,000 for the whole country). In 1874, it would stand \$46,000,000,000. In 1884, when our five-twenties become due, it would be \$107,000,000,000. In 1894, \$246,000,000,000; and in 1904, when our ten-forties are to be redeemed, it would reach the astounding sum of \$566,000,000,000. Of which, two-thirds of one per cent. would pay the entire principal of the debt, and the interest of it at \$150,000,000 a year for five years.

Again, when the debt of Great Britain was \$4,250,000,000, her population was but 19,000,000, and her foreign commerce amounted to \$450,000,000 per annum. Our population to-day, with only a little more than half that amount of debt, is 35,000,000, and our foreign commerce near \$800,000,000. If, therefore, Great Britain, with 16,000,000 less of population, and

* The average rate of interest on our whole indebtedness is less than four per cent.

\$350,000,000 per annum less of foreign commerce, has borne up, in a state of solvency, under a debt of \$4,250,000,000, why should we, with so much larger resources, and so much greater population, doubt of our ability to pay all we owe? On this subject there can be no reasonable question. But let us take yet another view of our resources, as a basis on which our national debt rests. The following facts I find to my hand in the "Phrenological Magazine"—they are worthy of our thoughtful consideration:

"Our territory is larger than all Europe. It is sixty times that of England proper; thirty times that of England, Ireland, and Scotland; eight times that of France; fifteen times that of Prussia; and twenty times that of Germany.

"Should this country ever reach the dense population of England, the United States will have twelve hundred millions of Americans under its banner; but should it only reach that of Massachusetts in 1860, it will be five hundred millions of population.

"We have now more miles of railroad and more miles of telegraph than all the world besides.

"We have an inland navigation of 122,000 miles. More than one half is navigated by steam; and our interior steam tonnage is greater than the interior steam tonnage of all the rest of the world.

"We have more timber, and a greater variety, than all Europe. More hydraulic power; more raw material for manufactures.

"One-half of the gold and silver product of the world is taken from the mines of the United States. This has been the case for the past fifteen years. The Secretary of the Interior estimates the future annual product of the mines at one hundred millions; and when the Pacific Railroad is opened, the annual product will be one hundred and fifty millions.

"Other portions of the world—in fact, the whole world, falls behind us in mineral deposits of iron, coal, copper, lead, quicksilver, etc.

"Our bonded debt is the strongest and best backed

bond ever offered to a lending people. There is no such a property on the face of the earth as this country to base a debt upon. There is no such people as the Americans to develop resources and amass wealth; and when we take into consideration that the annual product of gold and silver in our day is eight times what it was at the time the British debt was made—and hence a debt of eight millions now is not more than one million was then, and as our debt is but half that of Great Britain, where is the ground for croaking?”

Now, who, I ask, with this exposition of our assets, as compared with our liabilities, will ever again allow himself to be depressed on the question of our finances, or be terrified by the bugbear of repudiation, when the annual product of our mines alone amounts to \$150,000,000 per annum, a sum equal to five per cent. of the whole debt, if it should swell to \$3,000,000,000. Or, to look at it in another light, the actual increase of our wealth for 1863 was \$3,719,000,000, four per cent. of which will pay the interest of the national debt. That is to say, if our annual profits hereafter should equal that of the year 1863, then four per centum of our annual profits will pay the annual interest of five per cent. on \$3,000,000,000 and leave our vast capital entirely untouched.

Said I not truly, “The Lord has done great things for us?” And do you not join me in saying, with the Royal Psalmist, “WE ARE GLAD?”

(5.) The only other “great thing” of the many which “*the Lord has done for us*,” that I will mention at this time, and for which we should “be glad,” is, that God has not given up the nation to hatred of our enemies, and to a desire for revenge. The nation, the Government, the people have been delivered from a desire for mere retaliation. A reverend doctor at Norfolk, Va., said to a Presbyterian clergyman, a friend of mine, “We of the South hate you.” My friend replied, “Then I pity you, for we do not hate you, but love you and pray for you.” “The country,”

said our worthy President, Abraham Lincoln, "will do every thing for safety, nothing for revenge." In that sentence he struck the key-note of the national feeling. We will do nothing for mere revenge.

It is "a great thing" that God has given to us, at this time, rulers who acknowledge him as the Supreme Wisdom and the Supreme Power in our national affairs; who believe that he is "*King of kings and Lord of lords, and the only Ruler of princes,*" and who consider themselves as holding the Government under him, and consequently accountable to him for their official as well as their private acts. Let us thank God for rulers who urge the people to give him the praise of our conquests, and to plead with him for his sanctifying grace in our reverses.

In evidence of this, see the various proclamations of our honored Chief Magistrate, calling for fasting and prayer and humiliation to deprecate the Divine wrath, and for thanksgivings for his mercies and blessings. The same spirit pervades the proclamations of many of the Governors of States and other executive civil officers, as well as the official dispatches and general orders of many of our generals and corps commanders in the field, announcing their successes and reverses. A marked illustration of what I mean on this point is found in a note from the Secretary of War to one of the daily papers of New York, in reply to an article adulatory of his acts:

"Much has recently been said of military combinations and organizing victory. I hear such phrases with apprehension. They commenced in infidel France with the Italian campaign, and resulted in Waterloo. Who can organize victory? Who can combine the elements of success on the battle-field? We owe our recent victories to the Spirit of the Lord, that moved our soldiers to rush into battle, and filled the hearts of our enemies with terror and dismay. The inspiration that conquered in battle was in the hearts of the soldiers, and from on high; and wherever there is the same inspiration, there will be the same

results. Patriotic spirit, with resolute courage in officers and men, is a military combination that never failed.

“We may well rejoice at the recent victories, for they teach us that battles are to be won now and by us in the same and only manner that they were ever won by any people, or in any age, since the days of Joshua, by boldly pursuing and striking the foe.”

A still more public illustration presents itself to the people in the motto adopted in our new issues of notes and coins, viz., “IN GOD WE TRUST,” which is also the sentiment of our national anthem.

“Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, IN GOD IS OUR TRUST!”

Adopt this motto for your own. Let God be your God, and his word be your guide, and then—

“Stand like the firmament, upholden
By an invisible, but Almighty hand!
He whomsoever JUSTICE doth embolden,
Unshaken, unseduced, unawed, shall stand.
Invisible support is mightier far,
With noble aims, than walls of granite are;
And simple conscioasness of justice, gives
Strength to a purpose, while that purpose lives.

“Stand, like the rock that looks defiant
Far o’er the surging seas that lash its form!
Composed, determined, watchful, self-reliant,
Be master of thyself, and rule the storm!
And thou shalt soon behold the bow of Peace
Span the broad heavens, and the wild tumult
cease;
And see the billows, with the clouds that meet,
Subdued and calm, come crouching to thy feet.”

Then, amid the joys of conquest, and the hopes of future tranquillity, we can exultingly exclaim with the

Psalmist, "THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US," whereof

II. "WE ARE GLAD."

Yes, we are glad that God is our Friend, the Patron of our nation. This first, last, best, "God is with us." "*Jehovah of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.*"

We are glad that a spirit of loyalty and of true patriotism animates our people. We are glad that success has crowned our arms, thus far, on land and sea; that victory has perched on our banners; and that our people are hopeful of the future.

We are glad that God has chosen to make this nation a co-laborer in the good work of extending the area of human liberty, and of transmitting its rich blessings to future ages.

We are glad that our resources are so ample; that our people are not revengeful; that our rulers express such an abiding trust and confidence in God, and that this sentiment is everywhere circulated with the currency and the coin of the realm.

We are glad that our Chief Magistrate invites the people to the mercy-seat, because the word of God declares "*Happy is the people that is in such a case. Yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord.*"

But we are glad, above and beyond all, that our cause is the cause of justice, of humanity, of truth. The cause of the oppressed against the oppressor, of the poor against those who in their desire for power have laid down the villainous proposition that "*capital should own labor,*" who would make merchandise of both body and soul. We are glad that we are battling (since we must fight) for the right, for the true, for the good, for the freedom with which Christ makes his people free; for deliverance from every form of political despotism and the breaking of every yoke. We are glad that in this particular we find ourselves in company with the truly patriotic of our previous history. Washington in 1786 wrote to John F. Mer-

cer, of Maryland, "It is among my first wishes to see some plan adopted by which slavery in this country may be abolished by law." Jefferson said, "The abolition of domestic slavery is the great object of desire in these colonies, where it was unhappily introduced in their infant state." And again, "*The Almighty has no attribute which can take sides with us in such a conflict,*" i. e., for the support of the master against the slave, in the event of such a conflict.

We stand, then, with Washington and Lafayette, with Jefferson and Jay, with the Adamses, with Hamilton, and with James Monroe, all of whom, while they contended for the largest liberty for the largest number, also scouted the idea of any foreign interference in our affairs; who trusted for the future preservation of our government to GOD, to JUSTICE, and to their own right arms; and who sought to perpetuate the blessings of the Union, Liberty, and Peace which they themselves enjoyed, so that they might be transmitted, untrammelled, untainted, and in all their integrity, to the very remotest generations of their posterity.

Here, then, on the principles announced by the fathers of our Republic, imbedded in the Constitution, preserved in our laws, and maintained by the patriots of other days; here, on Bible ground, and on the corner-stone of human liberty, we take our stand. Our purpose, *No step backward.* Our motto, "IN GOD WE TRUST." Our hope, the restoration of peace, the integrity of our Union, the harmony and good will of our *whole people*, North and South, and East and West. And the blessing and favor of Almighty God, through his Son Jesus Christ, who, as the King of providence, "*hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad!*"

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Lot I

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Neutralizing agent: Magnesium Oxide
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